

## Text of Cronkite Interview With President on Television

HYANNIS PORT, Mass.,  
Sept. 2 (AP) — Here is the  
text of the nationally tele-  
vised (CBS) interview of  
President Kennedy by news-  
caster Walter Cronkite:

### Viet-Nam

Q. Mr. President, the only  
hot war we've got running at  
the moment is of course the  
one in Viet-Nam, and we  
have our difficulties there,  
quite obviously.

A. I don't think that unless  
a greater effort is made by  
the Government to win popu-  
lar support that the war can  
be won out there. In the final  
analysis, it is their war. They  
are the ones who have to win  
it or lose it. We can help  
them, we can give them  
equipment, we can send our  
men out there as advisers,  
but they have to win it, the  
people of Viet-Nam, against  
the Communists.

We are prepared to con-  
tinue to assist them, but I  
don't think that the war can  
be won unless the people  
support the effort and, in my  
opinion, in the last two  
months, the government has  
gotten out of touch with the  
people.

The repressions against the  
Buddhists, we felt, were very  
unwise. Now all we can do  
is to make it very clear that  
we don't think this is the way  
to win. It is my hope that  
this will become increasingly  
obvious to the government,  
that they will take steps to  
try to bring back popular  
support for this very essen-  
tial struggle.

Q. Do you think this gov-  
ernment has time to regain  
the support of the people?

A. I do. With changes in  
policy and perhaps with per-  
sonnel I think it can. If it

doesn't make those changes,  
I would think that the  
chances of winning it would  
not be very good.

Q. Hasn't every indication  
from Saigon been that Pres-  
ident Diem has no intention  
of changing his pattern?

A. If he does not change  
it, of course, that is his deci-  
sion. He has been there 10  
years and, as I say, he has  
carried this burden when he  
has been counted out on a  
number of occasions.

Our best judgment is that  
he can't be successful on this  
basis. We hope that he comes  
to see that, but in the final  
analysis it is the people and  
the government itself who  
have to win or lose this strug-  
gle. All we can do is help,  
and we are making it very  
clear, but I don't agree with  
those who say we should  
withdraw. That would be a  
great mistake. I know peo-  
ple don't like Americans to  
be engaged in this kind of  
an effort. Forty-seven Amer-  
icans have been killed in com-  
bat with the enemy, but this  
is a very important struggle  
even though it is far away.

We took all this—made this  
effort to defend Europe. Now  
Europe is quite secure. We  
also have to participate—we  
may not like it—in the de-  
fense of Asia.

CPYRGHT